

Minutes

Youth Committee Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
August 20, 2015 ~ Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office
Gainesville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Committee met on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at Georgia Mountains Regional Commission office. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

Members

Scott Crain
Brenda Dalin
Bonnie Lofredo
Lynne Warren

Staff

Danielle Avelar
Samantha O'Day
Jessica Williams

Guest

Chase Bolds
Billy Boyd
Ellen Ward

Jessica Williams, Youth Supervisor called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Jessica asked Danielle Avelar, Youth Career Facilitator, to update the committee on the 2015 Summer Youth Work Experience Program. Danielle explained that this year's Summer Program was smaller due to the changes in the law; no new in-school applications could be accepted.

- 39 summer youth workers
- 38 youth successfully completed summer program
- 5 youth participants were hired at their worksite or other jobs
- 27 summer worksites
- youth were from Habersham, Hall, Forsyth, Franklin, Lumpkin, Stephens, Union and White Counties

Scott Crain, Hall County Schools asked if the Summer 2016 Program would be as small as this year. Jessica suggested this could be a possibility. A determination will be made at a later time, upon a mid-year review of funding.

Jessica asked Samantha O'Day, Intake Coordinator to tell the committee about the Youth Leadership Trip to Kings Hawaiian. Samantha explained that the goal of the leadership trip was to have youth think about options outside of college. She went on to say that many people in a trade and positions like electricians and machinist are aging out.

Five youth participated in the trip to Kings Hawaiian. Youth were given a complete tour of the plant. Terry Spicer, Plant Operations Training Manager of Kings Hawaiian,

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explained to the youth that a four year degree is not always required to have a good paying job. He stressed that those willing to work hard have opportunity to move up.

After the plant tour youth went to Lanier Technical College to tour the campus and explore the certifications and short term trainings the College offered. Youth were able to visit the Machining, Dental Hygiene, Auto Mechanics, and Cosmetology classrooms.

Overall the students enjoyed the trip and gained insight into technical careers. Samantha stated that she would like to target Georgia Power or Tallulah Falls Hydro Electric Plant and North Georgia Technical College for the next Career Pathway Trip.

Samantha address transporting the youth as a challenge, but she and Jessica are trying to work on this challenge, so these trips may be offered at least annually.

Jessica explained that in light of the changes in the law, the tutoring programs will be decreasing in the number of students and tutors. Many of the students in the tutoring programs have graduated or will be graduating soon and these spots will not be filled. The students currently in this program will be offered tutoring however, the program will have reduced hours and tutors. Jessica stated that she is looking to have Program Coordinators in all of the high schools who will assist in targeting drop outs in order to offer WIOA services in obtaining a GED or a diploma through credit recovery. The coordinators will also target seniors transitioning to college so WIOA college assistance services may be offered.

Jessica stated that she still wants to keep relationships with the schools and by having the coordinators and offering workshops the program can do this.

“Mapping Your Future” is a series of workshops that can be offered to the schools beginning in the 8th grade. Jessica explained that the workshop was done with the entire 8th grade class at C. W. Davis Middle School in Flowery Branch. The workshop was held during the social studies/economics period, and hit on these topics:

- Future Planning
- Making High School Count
- College Knowledge
- Options other than College

The teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Jessica explained that the goal is the get youth to start thinking about the future early which includes preparing for the 9th grade and making it count. Follow-up workshops will be in their junior and senior years. The series will be piloted in Hall, Franklin, and Banks counties, but the plan is to offer it to all of the schools in the region. Some of the schools offer career days

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already, in which case Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) may partner with them for other workshops. The mobile training units could be used to provide workshop aspects such as interviewing skills and resume writing. Jessica stated that she is scheduling meetings with school administration to present "Mapping Your Future".

Jessica asked Danielle to update the committee on the GED program and recruiting out of school youth. Danielle stated that she has partnered with the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Assistant to present program overviews at the GED centers in the thirteen counties. She announced that she will be visiting the two centers in Stephens County in the upcoming week. She also mentioned that there are six enrolled currently in the GED program from Hall County.

Danielle explained that she is also working with the Hall County Juvenile Court to give information on the program to probation officers to give youth currently involved in Juvenile Court. Jessica added that youth staff met with some of the Juvenile Judges and some are ordering youth to apply for WIOA services as part of their probation.

Jessica asked Samantha to update the committee on the Regional Youth Detention Center partnership. Samantha stated that majority of the youth in the Detention Center are from Gwinnett County and Gwinnett has agreed to work with our area and allow them to enroll in the GED program while they are housed in RYDC. She announced that two students who are currently in RYDC or rehabilitation, have completed their GED are now enrolled in college.

Jessica stated that the WIOA is now active as of July 1, 2015. All regulations have not been received but changes to the program are active. July 1, 2016 will be the deadline for final implementation, with some areas of the law given more time. Jessica explained that with the new law, the definition of out of school youth has changed to "youth attending any school", unless GED, Job Corps, etc. Previously, under Workforce Investment Act (WIA), youth in post-secondary education were considered out of school youth. Youth who do not attend the summer quarter before fall registration may be eligible as out of school. Youth who are 16 years of age or older, and have stopped attending high school, can be brought in as out of school if they are returning to school.

Youth with barriers listed below do not have to be income eligible:

- Not attending any school (per state law) at time of eligibility
- Dropout
- In adult or juvenile system
- Homeless, runaway
- In or aged out of foster care

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- Pregnant or parenting
- Mild disability
- Youth within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar term

Income must be considered for these barriers listed below:

- Has diploma/degree and is low income and basic skills or ESOL
- Low income and requires additional assistance to complete educational program or secure employment (determined by state and local WIOB)
 - Older youth that has difficulty holding steady employment
 - Resides in a non-traditional household
 - Parent/legal guardian supporting youth is currently incarcerated or has been a minimum of six months over the past year

Jessica explained that a few in-school youth were exited after graduation and brought back in for college assistance as out of school youth. The remainder of youth who have not participated for nine to twelve months will have timed exits.

Jessica announced Patrick Shuler, former Program Assistant is no longer with Workforce Development, and has left to pursue his law career. She has been reviewing resumes and plans to fill his position by mid-September.

Jessica reminded the committee of the need for new committee members, and a committee chairperson.

Jessica asked the committee to review the minutes for any changes, no changes were needed

Jessica announced that the next meeting will be held on October 22nd and she will send out the location at a later date.